

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 760

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to recognize the many contributions of Henry V. Ragan on the occasion of the observance of the bicentennial celebration of the founding of Dickson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are particularly pleased to celebrate historic milestones in the histories of the counties of this state and to specially recognize the significant contributions of leading citizens of such counties and their communities to their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, one such progressive community is Dickson County, which has been celebrating its bicentennial, and one such outstanding citizen is the late Henry V. Ragan, a prominent business owner, county commissioner, preacher, historian, and entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, born on October 17, 1921, Henry Ragan was the oldest of Roy Smith and "Mai" Missouri Mathis Ragan's three children; and

WHEREAS, eager to seek out his fortune, the young Mr. Ragan left his family's farm as a teenager and soon met his future wife, Nancy Carroll, whom he married on December 23, 1940, in Elkton, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, throughout the next few years Henry Ragan and his new family moved from state to state, while Mr. Ragan secured his plumbing license and worked in factories to support the war effort; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, at the age of twenty-five, Henry Ragan opened his first business in Dickson, the "Henry V. Ragan Plumbing and Heating Company"; three years later, Mr. Ragan moved his growing business to a more accommodating location and partnered with his brother-in-law to form "Ragan and Hamilton, General Contractors" a business which eventually evolved into "American Maintenance Corporation"; and

WHEREAS, from 1953 to 1955, Henry and Nancy Ragan and their two children, Henry and Donna, lived in Tampa, Florida, where Mr. Ragan studied the Bible at Florida College. Once he had completed his religious education, Henry Ragan moved his young family back to Dickson and commenced a successful twelve-year preaching career at the Colesburg Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1947 and continuing through the early 1960s, Mr. Ragan organized and sang bass in several gospel quartets, including The Dickson Rangers Quartet, The Southernaires, and The Friendly Neighbors Quartet; and

WHEREAS, Henry Ragan sold his interest in American Maintenance Corporation and the Ragan and Hamilton partnership and purchased the Pack Building on East College Street in 1962, where he opened "Ragan's Friendly Neighbor Store"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his vocations as a plumber, preacher, and business owner, Mr. Ragan volunteered his precious spare hours to a local radio station, originating and hosting various radio programs for over forty years, and served as part owner and president of the Dickson Printing Corporation, the publisher of the Dickson Free Press newspaper; and

WHEREAS, a staunch democrat, Henry Ragan served multiple times as the chairman of the Dickson County Democrat Party and was chairman of the Seventh District Democratic Party and vice chairman of the State and County Democratic Chairs Organization; he also served as the chairman of the Dickson County Law Enforcement Civil Service Committee, and was a member of the Dickson Board of Zoning Appeals and the Dickson County Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ragan co-founded the annual Old Timers Day celebration, volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the American Cancer Society, and the March of Dimes Campaign, which he served as chairman, and served as a lifetime member of the Tennessee Jaycees and vice president of the Dickson Junior Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a friend to everyone he met, Henry Ragan regaled his fellow citizens with innumerable tall tales, peppering his stories with a few bits of historical fact to satisfy his love of history and desire to preserve the past; and

WHEREAS, Henry V. Ragan's long and outstanding contributions to his community and Dickson County are worthy of our deep appreciation and have clearly helped make Dickson County what it is today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Dickson County in celebrating their bicentennial and in specially honoring the many laudable contributions of Henry Vanderbilt Ragan to the growth and prosperity of Dickson County and to the admirable quality of life enjoyed by its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family members of Mr. Ragan with this final clause omitted from such copy.